

Mr. Nielsen: It is signed "Sincerely, P. G. Dixon, President, Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce." I have a better solution than that, Mr. Speaker. That is a modest request by the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of Yukoners. A far better solution would be to get rid of the whole damn mess on the Treasury benches, have them move aside so that we can move with some energetic and visionary policies with respect to developing this country. What does the King Point Quarry proposal mean? What would it have meant to Yukoners, to Canadians not just in Yukon, because certainly it has its national aspects in the potential oil and gas fields off the north slope of Yukon? It would have created a harbour facility, an air strip, quarry facilities and a haul road. A camp would have accommodated 300 people, 400 during the construction stages. Over a quarry life of 20 to 25 years it would have meant an average employment of 300 people, most of whom would have been Yukoners. The vast majority of those would be northerners. It would have meant spin-offs of \$3.5 million a year in goods and services required at one operation. This is the proposal that the Minister has rejected. Why has he rejected it? He has rejected it on the basis that it might jeopardize the final conclusion of native land claims. What a cop-out, Mr. Speaker. We have had the Government of Canada, the Government of Yukon, and the Council for Yukon Indians studying and negotiating since 1973. Their target, which is still realistic today, was for announcing the final agreement in principle by the end of this month. Yet on November 7 the Minister gives us the excuse of native land claims for not proceeding with this project.

● (1540)

Another vital factor here is that there was a window within which this project had to be approved or lost, a window which was imposed as a result of the need for the project to go ahead on time. Otherwise the proponents would have to look elsewhere for the method and materials to construct the off-island sites for exploration for oil and gas. That window is now gone. I dare say that if the Minister changes his mind, which I hope he still might do, it could very possibly be that the proponent will still go ahead with the project.

Let me quote from the Department's own document, a presentation to the north slope project review group, that is a group that was set up by the Minister himself, by the northern affairs program department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. This is the Department's own document that was presented about five weeks before the Minister made his decision. I am quoting as follows from the third heading, "North Slope Package":

At the time the Hon. John Munro announced the creation of the Project Review Group, he indicated that he hoped to be able to announce in the Fall a "package" for the North Slope, consisting of land claim settlements, a caribou management board, a National Park, a land use planning mechanism, and limited industrial development. While each of these are being carried forward in another forum, DIAND would like to make you aware of the progress toward each major element of the package in order to assist you in your deliberations.

Here follows the Departments' own assessment, obviously designed to encourage the project review group to bring down

Supply

a favourable decision to proceed with north slope development. Under "Land Use Planning" the Department says:

As you are aware, extensive consultation and discussions with the territorial governments and the native organizations (CYI in Yukon, and the Dene, Métis, COPE and TEN in N.W.T.) have resulted in agreement on the implementation of land use planning in Yukon—

Under "Land Claims" the Department says:

It is hoped that negotiations on the sub-agreements which will constitute the over-all agreement in principle, will be completed in October, subject to subsequent ratification.

Since this document was prepared, the sub-agreement collection has been made public and they are completed with one or two minor exceptions, none of which have any direct bearing on the reconsideration of the Minister's decision on the north slope.

Paragraph 4, "Some DIAND Objectives for the North Slope of the Yukon", reads:

Finally, we would like to put several major elements of the Department's thinking with respect to the North Slope on the record to assist the Group.

Two paragraphs on the following page are pertinent:

While the Department is just started on the intensive review of the Kiewit proposal, we have had the Gulf proposal for over a year now. In looking at both, we have wanted to determine if both were good projects, were they serious, viable, needed projects. We have concluded that the Gulf request for a marine support base is such a project, and our scrutiny to date of the Kiewit proposal suggests that it too meets these tests.

We have wanted to determine if negative environmental impacts can be managed, or mitigated, and if what one could call the down side of the project can be controlled. In the case of the Gulf application, we are confident that these tests can be met, and while the review of the Kiewit proposal is very much in progress, nothing seen to date suggests an unmanageable problem.

And on the next page:

These projects especially entail a high degree of industrial and employment benefit for the people of the Yukon.

If we look to the future, a site on the Yukon North Slope has a significant set of advantages, not the least of which is enhancing the economic future of the Yukon, a goal shared with the Government of the Yukon. If tied in with a quarry, it opens the chance for Canadians to earn potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in the foreign trade market, and to have available if needed a technique for building hydrocarbon production facilities with a very high Canadian content. If properly located, such a port opens the door to valuable business opportunities for all Canadians and especially Northerners, for marine support activities aimed at the American Beaufort. And, if properly sited, it will of course have a substantial similar role if and when hydrocarbon development takes place in the Canadian Beaufort.

The Member for Algoma went through a lengthy list of moneys that were being expended on these "make aid" programs financed by billions of Canadian taxpayers' dollars to make work for unemployed people whom they themselves have put out of work. Now the private sector and private industry come along wanting to make an investment in Canada's future. What does this Government say to it? It says, "We do not want your dollars. We do not want your jobs."

The chances are that the technology that will be required to be used now in order to proceed with that port facility is not available in this country and those jobs and dollars will be exported to Japan or to some other offshore location. I find it totally incomprehensible that the Government goes to such lengths to turn a cold shoulder to the private sector in this country which wants to invest in its own future and wants to